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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

IN THIS NUMBER

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OLD WILD GARDENS
WHERE ARE THE BLOOMS OF YESTERDAY?

FEBRUARY, 1928 TEN CENTS

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Old Wild Gardens

By Alexander Inglis
(In Pasadena Star-News)

"The Wild Gardens of Old California"
By Charles Francis Saunders:
Wallace Hebberd, Santa Barbara

The Mission fathers of California were aesthetes as well as priests and when they made their long pilgrimages between San Diego and Monterey they must have thought of many refined and gentle things by the way. I like to think of them blazing the trail that was later to become El Camino Real; to think of them passing over ground where the feet of white men had never before trodden; to think of them looking out upon the marvels and beauties of the new Spain they had discovered, seeing in everything about them the bountiful glories that Nature had bestowed upon the land, that was new to white men then. And in their hearts of hearts these saintly men often must have pondered on the rare, strange wonders of the land, their sensitive sensibilities for the appreciation of aesthetic things made doubly sharp by the profusion of the beauties everywhere about them.

That the Mission fathers were just such men as these is revealed in this charming new book which Charles Francis Saunders has written. In the fragment of biography which "The Wild Gardens of Old California" conjures up, it is the story of a thoughtful, kindly, nature-loving priest whose eyes are showing us the beauties of a land that was and whose life reminds us of the story that is a romance in California today. Fray Juan Crespi is lesser known than many of the faithful priests who pioneered this coast; they all are overshadowed by the genius and the goodness of Fray Junipero Serra. But in that brotherhood, Fray Crespi was a well-loved figure, who loved God and his fellows and who saw in the loveliness of little flowers the tender solicitudes of a mighty Creator.

Juan Crespi accompanied the first expedition that opened up the pathway that is El Camino Real. The exploration was done on foot or on the backs of mules and the path blazed then is still in vogue today.

The priest kept note of all the unusual beauties which he discerned and in a journal tells of the flowers and gladsome beauties lying on the road to Monterey. All this interesting information, Mr. Saunders assembles here for those who did not know it; and for those who did, he tells the story once again with a poetic beauty and a liquid simplicity that is charming and refreshing.

The wild garden that the whole of old California was then is planted once more by the broad knowledge of flowers and trees and natural beauties that Mr. Saunders possesses. Not only do we go with the saintly priest on his mission of love across the golden state; we share with him the joys and lovelinesses which the wild plant life of the state still retains, to a great extent, today. Mr. Saunders deplores, with much reason, the destruction of so much that is beautiful in California; but he also helps us to appreciate a little more the beauty that is with us still.

I do not think the real literary genius of Charles Francis Saunders is appreciated in this city and this country. I know that the London Times Literary Supplement has given an entire column to works by this Pasadena author, turning the interest of British readers to the nature studies of a man who is to be seen on the streets of this city, almost any day of the week. He is that rare character in literature—the naturalist who can tell with real literary charm of the things he sees in Nature and in life. He ranks with those authors who are in fit company with John Muir and Dallas Lore Sharp; gifted souls who have made the simple beauties of Nature alive with interest to the generality of men, who can appreciate the good and beautiful in the world but need such writers to draw their interest to them.

"The Wild Gardens of Old California" is a beautiful book. I am going to recommend it to my friends, here and abroad. For it has a practical interest for them. Mr. Saunders sees wild gardens dying, but he takes a genuinely active part in encouraging their revival. The purchaser of this book is going to receive one of the most novel surprises in his reading experience when he turns to the third section of this book and finds those "seeds of hope for the dim and distant fu-

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ture." Actual seeds they are, too, however difficult it may be to have the reader of this article believe it! And when I read of Fray Crespi's journey through those delectable fields of ancient California and hear of how David Douglas, the Scot, introduced the wild flowers of this state into England, I am fired with the desire to emulate both the Spanish priest and the Scottish naturalist.

In the modern art of book production, this volume from the Santa Barbara press of Wallace Hebberd will rank among the fine books of the year. A binding of exceptional beauty, a page of sheer delight to the bibliophile and type that is a delight to the eye all contribute to make the product a work of singular art. Added to these things are etchings by Edward Borein, which are fraught with character and poetry, and a frontispiece by Colin Campbell Cooper, a Santa Barbara artist, whose art is nationally known. It certainly looks as though the artistic colonists of Santa Barbara came together to give Mr. Saunders' book the setting it deserves.

Mr. Saunders shows his art as an essayist, the most delicate of literary arts, in this work. And what a delightful subject for the essayist: a genial, kindly priest; a great, unexplored land; rare flowers, growing in unexampled profusion in lush valleys; and on distant rambling ridges of the hills; a romantic journey across the face of an untraversed region; and the hint of great enterprises among naked, native peoples, the coming of Christianity and the regeneration of a land to influences that are new and splendid. With a style that has a hint of the archaic quaintness of the time of which he describes, 1770, the writer presents his study with colorful beauty, informative authority and true literary qualities.

R. H. S. HONORS DR. L. H. BAILEY

The Council of the Royal Horticultural Society at its meeting in London on Dec. 13 made a number of awards to individuals who have rendered service to horticulture. Five notable British workers were honored with the Victorian Medal of Honor to fill the vacancies caused by death; only 62 of these medals exist and as a holder passes on, his or her medal is bestowed upon some other worker. These medals are available only to citizens of the British Empire. Among the five to be so honored this year is P. D. Williams in recognition of his work among Daffodils.

To Dr. L. H. Bailey the R. H. S. has given its highest honor possible, namely the Veitch Memorial Medal for his scientific work on behalf of horticulture. American horticulturists will, we feel sure, appreciate the honor accorded to one of their fellow workers by so great an institution as the Royal Horticultural Society.—Florists' Exchange.

A SONG OF LOVE

I sing the song of Encanto—
The song of the hills and wide spaces.
No more the Garden of Eden
Is the epitome of all nature's beauty
To me as before.

Beauteous, green trees and deep forests,
With loveliness mysterious, cloistered,
Giving peace to a soul distraught
And rest to the world-weary traveller—
Thus should it be.

But I sing the song of horizons,
Of limitless, intriguing distance,
Where, for the mind and the eye,
Barriers have no existence,
Thwarting the soul.

I sing the song of Encanto—
The song of the hills and wide spaces.
There are no peans of praise
Worthy to tell of its power
To lure and caress and content;
But I sing its song.

—N. K. B.

WHERE ARE THE BLOOMS OF YESTERDAY?

By Carroll De Wilton Scott

Supervisor of Nature Study
San Diego City Schools

The answer to this poetical question is very prosaic. It has to do with city buildings, selfish picking, grazing animals and weeds—mostly weeds—ninety-nine per cent weeds. There will be more repetition in this article. I hope to make it so emphatic that nobody who reads it will ever again make such remarks as: "Children and tourists have destroyed the wild flowers around the city"; "We should scatter seeds of wild flowers along the highways." For one plant destroyed by plucking a thousand have been destroyed by weeds. To scatter wild flower seeds along boulevards or on vacant lots is just as useless as to sow them in the bay. If you doubt these statements read on.

Go stand on Presidio Hill and look at the greenery of spring in every direction—over the hill slopes to the south, over the vacant lots of Old Town, across towards Hardy's, in the river bottom, on the flats between Old Town and Loma Portal, as far as you can see on Point Loma—wherever there is a spot of "green things growing" (outside of cultivated gardens of course) and what do you see? Nothing but European weeds. You are not gazing at young wild flowers. You are seeing filaree, burclover, malva, pigweed, saltweed (from Australia), wild oats. sow thistle, radish, mustard, foxtail barley and brome grasses—all from Europe. Walk along the crest of the hills to the flag on old Fort Stockton. Practically every square foot you press supports a weed and some square feet support hundreds. Here began the European weed invasion in 1769 that has changed the landscape of the bay region and is destined to make the whole coast region (not under constant cultivation) from Santa Barbara to Mexico a European weed patch.

Follow every road in the city from Old Town, up Mission Valley, south through Chula Vista to Imperial Beach, north through Pacific Beach and La Jolla to Del Mar—it will be the same story—the bright green of spring that meets your eyes is nothing but burclover, filaree, dock, saltweed, wild oats and a score of other weeds and grasses. They occupy every vacant lot in the city (I listed twenty species on a vacant lot 100 by 100 at Seventh and Cedar on April 1, 1927) and suburbs, they occupy every parking, every canyon slope about the bay, every roadside, every piece of cultivated ground that has been abandoned, every cleared tract unplowed, ground that has been grazed over and ground that was never pressed by foot of goat or cow, lowland and slope, rich soil and poor. In the rich lowlands the Mission introductions, filaree, burclover, mustard, horehound and wild oats will predominate; on the poorer soils star thistle, foxtail barley, pepper grass, Silene anglica and the bromes — the terrible bromes. They are matted thickest near the roadsides where they started and on ground longest occupied, they are thinnest on brushy areas but they are spreading, spreading every season, wet or dry, like wild fire; bromes pushing their spikes through the stems of buckwheat bushes, surrounding the sages, creeping under the skirts of the sumac bushes; saltweeds climbing over fences and sages, reaching their dirty arms over embankments, covering north slopes where violets and shooting stars are still struggling with their solid, sunless mats often six feet in diameter—they are everywhere—thistles, horseweed, burclover, filaree, castor bean, cocklebur, foxtail, wild oats, pigweed, bronco bromes, soft chess bromes—this is the greenery of spring along the highways and coast terraces from Tia Juana to Capistrano and beyond.

Oh, there are a few exceptions—I know them as well as you do, perhaps better—but they are little, lost, hopelessly fighting detachments in the midst of this vast devastating army of invasion. I made a list of native plants on Presidio Hill, about two dozen quickly noted—a few sages and buckwheats, a clump of prickly pear cactus, bunches of four-o'clock and deerbroom in a deadly struggle with crowding, choking bromes. For every species of native plant I wrote down the name of a weed. Such "lists," however, that a botanist might make do not describe the situation. For every native plant on that hill today there are probably 10,000 immigrants. The surviving native plants are doomed. They are doomed everywhere the immigrants get a foothold. It is only a question of time. The presence of the brome grasses alone is the beginning of the end of the native plants. Where the brush or chaparral remains intact they cannot enter. But woe to the shrubs if paths are broken by cattle or men. There are unoccupied tracts on the crest of Point Loma, in the eastern part of Balboa Park and on the Torrey Pine ridge. These tracts have not been cleared and the soil is usually very poor. Wild flowers grow here, sparsely or not at all, and so have not been affected. One notable "bright spot" where tidy-tips have managed to survive is on the Old Town flats north of Marine Base. Here the soil is almost pure sand, it being the bed of the San Diego River when it emptied into San Diego Bay and weeds have not invaded it badly. Look there in

(Continued on Page 15)

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

CACTUS

By Ada Perry
(San Diego Union)

The curious thing about cactus is its fatal fascination. English devote conservatories to the culture of it and Germans grow big greenhouse nurseries full of the plant.

William Watson, curator of the Royal Gardens at Kew, has written "a concise and practical guide to the management of a little understood family of plants" entitled "Cactus Culture". Perhaps he has never even been pinged through the boot sole by a Turk's-head on its native heath.

* * *

San Diego is the native heath of a good many excellent varieties of cactus. It is not at all extraordinary then to find beds, gardens and rockeries planted to the vegetable. But in England and similar climates they must be grown under glass. Mr. Watson describes a heating system for "cactus houses".

There are cactus beds in eastern gardens which must be dug every fall and stored away from frost like potatoes. Two explanations present themselves for all this striving for cactus. The first is that the various barrels, boles, buns, whips, stems and cylinders blossom gorgeously with delicate and remarkable flowers. They are irresistibly beautiful. Cacti are novel plant life and the grownup collector gets the same thrill out of the plants that children do at a seashore, gathering shells, starfish and crabs.

* * *

Mrs. Helen McCabe has a large collection of cactus from Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California at her home in Encanto. She has a glass house for rooting the cuttings out of season, and yard plantings. The natural time for cactus cuttings to take root is spring, but in her house, Mrs. McCabe has rows and rows of tiny plants all doing nicely. The roof is of glass, not whitewashed, and the sides are inclosed with glass cloth part way down and walled with boards the rest of the way to the floor. The benches holding the plants are a convenient height from the floor and hold about six inches of soil. The bottom layer is good black dirt and the top layer sand at least two inches deep. She has to be careful about overwatering the cuttings. Grafting cactus is done and there are several successful attempts shown in the McCabe house.

* * *

A cactus bed in the yard is dictatorial in regard to drainage and sea breezes. Put it in a place too dry to grow anything else. Do not try to have one in a location very near the water. The pretty color tints of the plants and spines will never be satisfactory in such a place.

A place too barren for anything else can be planted to cactus or a choice place that is never soggy may be leveled off and several inches of sand spread. Then paths can be made and rock borders and even little stakes put up with the names on them.

Mrs. McCabe warns against sand with weed seeds in it.

* * *

Many cacti are tiny and others grow slowly. Groups of these can be arranged in ordinary flower pots. Such miniature cactus gardens are something more than curiosities. They thrive and bloom in a scorching hot window that no other house plant could stand for a day. Repotting is done only once a year and sometimes not then. All the water needed is a dash once a week. Mrs. McCabe says cacti are well adapted to pot culture because their roots are used to cramped fissures in rocks.

* * *

Kinds and names of cacti seem an impenetrable mass at first. But it is really quite easy to learn to distinguish the various classes. There are few compared to other plant families. Mrs. McCabe has quite a large collection of the most important, which are: Mammalaris, Cereus, Echinicereus and Opuntias. Then there are Agaves, Alies and Succulents. The succulents and some cereus introduce a little versatility into the clan. They want dampness and moisture and are fine candidates for lathhouses.

Mrs. McCabe uses no names other than the identifying ones for her cacti and laughs a little at the common terms because they are so confusing. But the quaint museum of plant shapes in her glass house and yard contains its best description in such titles as "old man cactus," "toad cactus," "fairy fingers," "opal cactus," "lace cactus," "velvet cactus" and "rat-tail cactus." Fairy fingers are soft, rather ghostly little bunches that are common around San Diego hills. Lace cactus is tiny and very dainty, though I think the smallest dwarf in the cactus family, the mammalaria micromeris, is a bit prettier. It looks like a piece of wet snow and has red beads in the center which are seed pods. Rat-tails have wonderful blossoms.

California Cord-Grass, Spartina foliosa, Trin. grows along the inner marshes of Silver Strand, Coronado, and along the Pacific Coast generally as a mud binder in the salt marshes.

English Cord-Grass, Spartina Townsendi, Groves, answers the same purpose in England and performs the same service.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

The Feb. and March Gardens

THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch

February is one of the heavy planting months for both annuals and perennials, soil conditions will gradually be getting warmer so that your plants will not stand still as they so often do when planted earlier.

There are a few bulbs that should be planted at this time, and Montbretia is one of them. In common with many others, the montbretia has been much improved. Separate colors in good size blooms can now be had, pink, red, orange and yellow. These flowers are very easily grown and do well in almost any location. Groups or clumps are particularly adapted for planting amongst low growing shrubbery, lending a pleasing note of color to the surrounding foliage.

It is also time to plant your cannas, and if given the treatment they require, which is a more or less sunny location, good soil and plenty of cow or stable manure and plenty of water, they will give you a wonderful mass of color for many months of the year. They are fine for a background, growing as they do from two and a half to five or six feet tall. The colors include many shades of red, gold and red, shades of pink, orange, etc.

Tuberous Rooted Begonias will be largely planted this month, they need lath house or similar treatment, shallow planting and plenty of leaf mold in the soil.

Gladioli bulbs should be planted for a succession of blooms every month until June. There are many beautiful varieties now being offered.

Ranunculus bulbs planted not later than about the middle of this month, will give you satisfactory blooms in May and June.

Many plants and seeds can now be set out for Spring and Summer blooming, Aquilegia or Columbine, plant where there is some shade, also Forget-Me-Not. The Chinese Forget-Me-Not (Cynoglossum Amabile) is a great improvement on the old, longer stalks and has larger flowers and makes fine cut-flowers. Set out plants of Dimorpotheca or African Orange Daisy for Spring and Summer blooming, it is fine for beds or borders. Coreopsis lanceolata, so good for cutting, Snapdragon and stocks. Also Carnations, seed or plants for late Summer and Winter Blooming. Plants of Clarkia and Godetia both fine for cut flowers, the double Godetia being particularly good. Larkspur, tall double stock flowered, fine for backgrounds and cutting, in colors of pink, rose, lilac, white, blue, etc.

Set out a bed of Pansy plants, nothing will give you better value in blooms for the next few months, a combination of Mastadon and one of the best grade of imported English seed will give the most satisfactory blooms.

Plants of the Hollyhock Delphinium raised from imported seed and then selecting the plants producing the best flowers, are now available. These plants produce wonderfully large blooms in blue, mauve, lavenders and other colors, and are very striking amongst lower growing plants in the flower garden or in groups or beds by themselves.

Try a packet of Tree French Marigold, a novelty from New Zealand, it grows to a heighth of five feet, with a spread of four to five feet, and is literally covered with blooms all the season.

Put in plants of Salpiglossis, Salvia, blue and red, Pentstemon and others.

Now that we have had the rains, don't neglect to keep the weeds down, and conserve the moisture already in the ground by cultivation. Stimulate the growing plants with a little blood and bone worked into the soil, and keep a mulch of stable or cow manure on the surface of the ground.

Snails and slugs are "pepped up" by the rains, so don't neglect to put out Snarol for these pests, before they get the young growth of bulbs or plants.

If you have an old lawn that you have not decided to dig up and plant a new one, rake it over, cut off as many of the devil grass runners as possible, and sow some white clover, and apply a sack or two of fertilizer, either Nulife or Groz-It. If you are going to plant a new lawn, find out about the comparative merits of Bent Grass and the old Blue Grass and white clover lawn, they both have their backers.

Bent Grass lawns are being successfully grown in Petaluma, Calif., and one lawn is so perfect it is like velvet and not a weed, that one is converted at once—So writes Mrs. Matha Phillips, a garden authority and author of an excellent small book called "Garden Helps," just published.

—K. O. SESSIONS.

The California Garden

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FEBRUARY MEETING

Mr. Fred C. McNabb, Vice President of the Aggeler & Musser Seed Co., and Radio Gardener over KFI, will take as his subject, "Spring Planting" at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, February 21.

Mr. McNabb's radio talks are eagerly looked forward to by thousands of interested garden folk, and his name has become a household word to gardeners over Southern California. He is indeed rendering a wonderful service to plant and flower lovers.

At this meeting the very interesting books of the library will be ready for circulation.

SAYS BEAUTY INCREASED BY TREES

Tree-Lined Boulevard for Pasadena Suggested

GIVES IMPRESSION OF TOUR ABROAD

Miss Isabel Frazee Tells of Civic Generosity

Pasadena's beauty would be greatly increased by a tree-lined boulevard similar to those in many European cities, asserts Miss Isabel Frazee, of the English department of Pasadena High School, who has just returned from a three months' stay abroad.

Asked, of all the things she saw on her motor tour through Europe, what she would have liked best to bring back to Pasadena, Miss Frazee said:

Would Not Be Palaces

"It would not be the palaces or chateaux or cathedrals, picturesque and full of historic interest as they are; they belong to Europe and her past. It would not be the art galleries, precious as many of their treasures are. It would not be Roman towers or walls or feudal castles. It would not be the scenery of Switzerland, magnificent as it is. America has enough that is glorious of her own. All of these treasures, which give so much interest and pleasure to the world, I would leave in Europe where they belong.

"But if some fairy godmother, as in the 'once-upon-a-time' stories should say to me, 'Make a wish for any one thing that you would most like to take back to your home city, as a gift, and your wish shall be granted,' I would not hesitate a moment in making my choice. I should wish that the people of Pasadena might be given the keen desire and the determined will to build a tree-lined boulevard similar to those which give the charm and the beauty to so many of the cities in Europe.

"If it is too late to work this charm on Colorado street, I should wish to have them choose one of the newer streets, preferably Greene street, where the houses will have to be moved to make room for business buildings.

Urges Wide Boulevard

"Let this boulevard be at least 220 feet wide, including the sidewalks, each to be 30 feet wide. Down the middle of the roadway let there extend a bridle path 40 feet wide, lined on each side with a row of fine trees and planted to grass and flowers. On each side of this bridle path let there be a space of 60 feet paved for automobile travel; this roadway to be separated from the sidewalks by another row of trees, thus making a boulevard lined with four rows of trees and gay with flowers to give continual delight and pride to the people of Pasadena.

"I would have my wish include that the sidewalks be arched arcades where one may walk protected from sun and rain.

"Every town has a psychology of its own. One feels its distinctive quality on entering any city in Europe, no matter how short the stay. We were impressed with the substantial dignity of London, the gaiety of Paris, and the beauty of Brussels with its magnificent squares, or Civic Center, built in 1500, with its intersecting boulevards lined with rows and rows of trees, gay with fountains and flowers; its superb medieval buildings; a civic center beautiful enough for heaven. All

these cities have their art galleries, their palaces and their cathedrals, but it is not these things which captivate and hold the tourist. It is their parks and boulevards which most delight and make the distinctive impression.

"When one first enters Paris and rides up the wide, tree-lined Champs Elysees, with its wide sidewalks gay with people eating and visiting at little tables, one catches the vibrations of contentment and gaiety and finds himself losing that feeling of nervous hurry that so often characterizes the American tourist. One longs to be a part of it all, to sit at a little table and eat the delicious little cakes from the "patisseries" that abound in Europe and so abundantly serve confections delicious enough to make St. Julian green with envy. One wants to linger, to visit, to watch the crowd go by, even if it means losing a precious hour at the Louvre.

Sees Civic Lessons

"But the people of Europe can teach Americans many lessons in civic generosity expressed in city beautifying. Every town of any importance expresses a civic pride in tree-lined boulevards and throughout the whole of Europe the roadways are lined with trees, and this we found to be the most delightful thing in Europe; sometimes for miles at a stretch one rides through green tunnels of overlapping chestnut and sycamore trees—and clean! The habit of throwing banana skins and egg shells and waste paper on the roadside does not prevail in Europe, and the beauty of the roadway is not desecrated at every turn with hideous billboards advertising cheap movies or quack medicines.

"California is adapted to beautiful tree-lined streets and roadways. Trees and flowers grow with minimum of care with us. It is true that water is an item of continual expense, but to what better use can money be put than to making our town beautiful?

"We have streets lined with beautiful homes, but that is an individual expression of taste and money. What we need is more civic generosity and community responsibility in making and keeping our streets beautiful, and my wish would be that the fairy godmother would put it into the hearts and wills of the people of Pasadena to take the initiative in building and maintaining at least one beautiful wide boulevard lined with four rows of trees and make it gay with flowers. A street equalling in beauty the tree-lined boulevards of Europe, and that they protect that street from defilement by any form of signs, billboards or electrical advertisements.

"This would do more to develop civic pride in our young people and would give more distinction and beauty to our city than any other form of expenditure money could take."

While abroad, Miss Frazee visited in England, Scotland, France, Belgium, Switzerland and Holland. She returned in time to

(Continued on Page 14)

SAN DIEGO WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY

By Dean Blake

Although February occasionally passes with little or no precipitation, it is in the heart of the rainy season, and rain may be expected from a quarter to a half of the days. Sometimes four or five consecutive days are stormy, but as a rule the disturbances move rapidly and clearing conditions follow quickly.

Cool, frosty mornings are common, but the probabilities of a severe frost are remote, even in the citrus districts back from the coast. As in January, many mild, sunshiny days obtain with clear sky and low relative humidity.

There has never been a wind over 45 miles per hour during February, and the normal precipitation based upon 50 years record is 2.03 inches. Being a mid-winter month the average sunshine is comparatively low, 64% of the possible, and the number of clear days relatively small, averaging half of the month. The highest temperature recorded was 89 degrees in 1921; the lowest 34 in 1911.

JANUARY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Floral Association was held January 17 in the Floral Building. Mrs. Greer, the president, called the meeting to order and drew attention of those present to the fact that our room was delightfully warm due to our new gas stoves purchased with money raised by the afternoon bridge party. The State Convention of Federated Women's Clubs which is to meet in San Diego in May was again announced and the fact that many flowers will be needed then, especially sweet peas and gladioli was stressed. She urged that we make San Diego the "most flowery place that they will have been to."

At last we are to have our library properly catalogued so that books can be conveniently lent. Mr. John Bakkers has kindly taken charge of this.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Richard Requa, was then introduced. He gave a most interesting and instructive talk on "Spanish Gardens"—and by his beautiful pictures showed how it was possible to make hillsides and the smallest spots a veritable fairyland. We have three reasons for being especially interested in Gardens of Spain—first, a historical interest; second, similarity of climate; and third, resemblance of architecture.

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served by the house committee.

W. SINCLAIR, Scretary.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

TORREY PINES' ORIGIN LOST IN MYSTERY

By RICHARD MANSFIELD

(In the San Diego Independent)

What secret of origins lies, unprobed and unwritten, back of the present condition and surroundings of the celebrated Torrey pine in its native habitat?

What cataclysm severed the two ends of a beautiful and extensive forest, submerging forever the forest itself, and leaving one remnant clinging to the bold headlands south of the Soledad river, and the other remnant niched in the steep bluffs of the middle channel island, despairingly facing the mainland? That mainland once reached out to the islands, undoubtedly, but in ages past submerged. The pines were forsaken.

Lonely remnants of a flourishing and unique forest of pines that extended in unbroken array along the crests of a low coastal mountain range, the Torrey pines seem to love the sea. And yet that sea was the agency which drowned the greater area of their original habitat, and left the survivors few and desolate.

The Torrey Pines rooted in a loose mixture of earth and stones on the lee side of Santa Rosa island, are more erect than those of the mainland, which, facing the ceaseless salt winds of ocean, for all their native vigor, their unimpaired vitality, are beaten down in a more or less prone position generally. The two ends of the prehistoric forest, surviving the flood, seem always to yearn toward each other. They fight eternally to maintain their last footholds, with the inexorable blue water of the sometimes crooning, sometimes shouting Pacific between them on the rounded line of the horizon.

Purely Native

The genus, its mainland habitat set aside in perpetuity as a public park a few miles north of San Diego, has excited much comment because of the fact that it is a native here and nowhere else.

Of excellent health and vigor, however, the genus has supplied specimens for many parks and private grounds, both in California and elsewhere. Trees of the genus have been planted along the Riviera of the Mediterranean, but recent reports of its reaction to that environment are lacking.

Seedlings in Balboa Park, planted years ago, have given rise to specimens that will far exceed their progenitors on the seaward bluffs for size.

Conservation methods have, likewise, multiplied the specimens in the place of origin. Forestry experts and tree lovers have worked to protect the pine in the Torrey Pines Park, to aid it in combating the handicaps of the locality, and to propagate it. Eventually the Torrey Pines Preserve will be an emerald ground of lasting beauty, as compared with the few scraggly specimens originally found growing there, hampered by crumbling cliffs and the erosion caused by winter floods.

The soil is being constantly battened for its anchorage, and the roots of the trees on the exposed headlands are supplied with support to prevent them from being washed out entirely and the trees destroyed. A number of the flattened trees grew with twisted, supine limbs quite embedded in the mobile soil, and yet the ends of the limbs protruded and bore leaves and seeds.

Battle for Life

Current pictures of one lone specimen of the tree, facing the ocean with upflung, scantily leaved branches, give an accurate portrayal of the battle for life made by the genus over many centuries. Indeed, in its everlasting war with the elements, the Torrey pine seems almost heroic, for it faces greater adversity from natural conditions than the famed cypress of Monterey, and is far more limited in extent and number of its survivors.

The Torrey pine is distinguished by retention of seed cones on its branches for as many as four years, and by its leaves. The leaves grow in fascicles of five, and are large and strong—in fact, they are the strongest pine leaves known, and grow to a length of 12 inches.

Singularly, in addition to being the sole representatives of their species, the Torrey pines, in their natural habitat, are distant 60 miles from any other pines.

LA JOLLA WILL HAVE NEW TREE VARIETIES

Seeds of forty species and varieties of Eucalyptus and of thirty-six species and varieties of Acacia have been received by Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan, Director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, at La Jolla, from the Division of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction of the United States Department of Agriculture.

At the present time there are but two of the species of Acacia received that are growing on the grounds of the Institution, and but a few of the Eucalyptus. As a result, thirty-four new species of Acacia will be added to the plantings, and more than that number of Eucalyptus.

Director Vaughan has been trying out many trees, shrubs and plants with a view to determining their adaptability to California climate and conditions, and is co-operating with the United States Department of Agriculture to this end.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

PALESTINE HYBRID IRISES DESERVING OF ATTENTION BY AMERICAN FANCIERS

Two groups of irises, which are best known as Palestine iris hybrids and which include some of the most interesting and beautiful species of the entire genus, are deserving of considerable more attention by American iris fanciers than is now being given them, according to Dr. David Griffiths, horticulturist of the United States Department of Agriculture. Experiences extending over a period of eight years in testing these flowers at the department gardens are discussed by Doctor Griffiths in Technical Bulletin 11-T, "The Production of Hybrid Palestine Iris Corms," just issued by the department.

These two groups are natives of the mountains of western Asia and are usually associated with the Palestine region. In the United States they seem best adapted to the climatic conditions of the milder sections of the Pacific Coast where conditions most nearly duplicate those of their native country. Success can be had, says Doctor Griffiths, on the valley floor of the interior valleys with a summer mulch, but the situation is not ideal. Culture has been attempted on the coast, but this situation does not seem to be ideal either, rust and spot giving too much trouble in the humidity prevailing there. It is believed, he says, that a locality in the mountains east of Chico, Calif., at an elevation of about 3000 feet, would furnish a condition which would produce better stocks of these irises provided one or two irrigations were supplied.

The Atlantic coastal plain is not suitable without resort to artificial methods. But it is interesting and important to know that by the use of such methods stocks not only can be maintained but actually can be profitably increased and enjoyed with practically the same handling as is usually advised for the common garden tulip. One unqualified success is reported by an amateur in the southwestern part of Virginia, where a dozen corms under his care multiplied to a wheelbarrow load in a period of six years.

The Department of Agriculture does not have stocks of these irises for distribution, but a few growers have a limited supply. The main supply, however, must come from Holland and England under special permit from the Federal Horticultural Board. If, however, a portion of the energy devoted by American fanciers to other forms of the iris were diverted to these two groups it would be possible, says Doctor Griffiths. to produce seedlings better adapted to American conditions than are those originated abroad.

A copy of the bulletin may be obtained by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

ACACIAS

The winter and early spring months is the Acacia season and San Diego has many varieties but only a few of which are commonly known and planted. A more general planting of all varieties possible will be an advantage and give additional and desirable features to our plantings.

Acacia Baileyana and floribunda are well known and very desirable. The A. Melonoxylon or blackwood is our common sidewalk tree, good for its habit and foliage but flowering qualities inferior. A. podalyriaefolia so very distinct with its small plain grey leaf, fast growth and earliest in bloom in November, its flowers such a fine, large yellow spray. It will succeed in the poorest of loose soil and no fertilizer should ever be used. Bone meal will do as the trees grow older.

A. cultriformis has very small leaves and is of lower growth and it serves well as a cut flower and should be more generously planted and kept trimmed back for a shrub. A. latifolia is most dependable for a low shrubby tree, near the sea shore. A fine row at the Coronado Ferry Park next to the bay is worth observing.

A. dealbata with its greyish green fine leafed foliage and A. decurrens with the same foliage only dark green, make good shade trees. A. mollisima or normalis, a form of decurrens is even more desirable in growth, foliage and flower, is worthy of more attention. A fine large specimen is in the garden of Mrs. M. O. Terry of Coronado.

A. verticellata looks more like a fine cypress shrub. Its leaves so narrow and short and almost like needles, less than an inch long. On the south side of the Barcelona Apartment Hotel. on Juniper Street, it is used as a hedge. A. pycnantha, known as the golden wattle, is conspicuous at Encinitas and Del Mar, where it has become so acclimated that seedling trees are scattered in many places and it flourishes with practically no care. A. saligna, with coarse foliage and drooping branches is on the grounds of Hotel del Coronado. A. Cyanophylla is very similar only with a blue green foliage. The park has many good plants of a variety called a sport of A. pycnantha, having a better foliage and habit of growth.

A. Armata is a bushy and very prickly variety small dark green foliage and rich golden yellow blossoms, fine for rock work or to grow over a bank or hillside. A Sicularformis is a choice and fine flowering sort, very pendulous, only one specimen now in existence here that I know, it is worthy of more attention.

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Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

A FEW HIGHLY DESIRABLE, YET LITTLE KNOWN PLANTS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GARDENS

By Peter D. Barnhart

In recent years two members of the Compositae tribe of plants have been introduced to our gardens, from the highlands of Mexico, and of Guatemala. Tithonia is their Generic name, from Tithonus, in mythology, the favorite of Aurora.

The Myth is of so much poetic beauty, that I quote it for the benefit of readers of this Journal who never have read the story.

"In mythology, Aurora was the daughter of Hyperion and Thia, and sister of Sol and Luna. She was one of the ancient goddesses of the race of the Titans, but retained her rank among the later race of gods.

To the Titan Astraeus, son of Crius, she bore the winds, Zephyrus, Boreas, and Notus, the morning star, and the constellations. She rises from the ocean, drawn by the celestial horses, Lampus and Phaeton, and with rosy fingers raises the veil of night, shedding light upon the world, until she flies from the splendor of the day. Among the mortals whose beauty captivated the goddess, poets mention Orion, Tithonus, and Cephalus."

Now let us get back to earth again.

One of the species is an annual, known as Tithonia speciosa, the specific name meaning "beautiful," and rightly so. The flowers are about three inches in diameter, a brilliant orange red. The plant requires but little water, and grows to a height of eight feet. It is a summer bloomer. The other is a perennial, and while the books class it with shrubs, it is best treated as an herbaceous subject. Cut back to within a foot of the ground after blooming, it makes a growth of ten to fifteen feet by the first of December, when it begins to bloom and so continues during our rainy season. The flowers are six inches diameter, of a beautiful yellow, disc and rays. A striking plant when in full flower. Its name is Tithonia diversifolia.

A shrub from Argentina deserves a place in all our gardens, because of its drouth resistant character, and its brilliant scarlet flowers. Time was when it went under the name, Daubentonia, now it is known as Sesbania punicea, the specific name has not been changed. The seed vessels are four angled, and if the seeds are planted as soon as the warm days of summer return, in the location where the plants are to remain, they will flower in three months from the time the seed is sown. The flowers are brilliant scarlet, and this writer chooses to call it a Scarlet Flowering Locust. If cut back as soon as the bloom begins to fade, the bush will produce a second crop, the same season.

A diversion here from the topic discussed, may be helpful to the gardener who reads these lines. Seed bearing reduces the vitality of any plant. If not permitted to mature seeds, many plants will bloom the second time, and some the third time during our long summers.

About twenty years ago, when in charge of Hollenbeck Home grounds, I had a vine under the name Vitis gongylodes. It climbed to the top of a Cypress tree, and one frosty night it perished from the cold. The foliage was so beautifully colored, that it was a delight to look upon. Then, too, on the ends of the branches it bore tubers about six inches long, constricted in the middle. After its demise I began a search for another plant. even to spending five dollars advertising in Florists' Exchange of New York which is a publication of nation-wide circulation among florists and never received a reply.

Last month it was my privilege to visit Kate O. Sessions of San Diego, and to my surprise and delight, there was my old time friend; the beautiful plant now known under the name: Cissus gongylodes. It is trifoliate, the leaves very large, on long stalks, and in full sun are gorgeously colored. Bailey says that it sends down long bright red aerial roots. Maybe he is right, but the one I grew showed no such character. I did have a member of this tribe which sent down bright pink aerial rootlets, ten to fifteen feet, but I lost the plant and have forgotten its name. But to get back to the gem, C. gongylodes. It is a tender subject and will not stand frost. To the enthusiast who has a home on high ground, with good air drainage, send to Miss Sessions and get a plant. If she charges two dollars, pay the price, and give thanks for the opportunity of getting one.

There is another member of this same tribe which, for rapid growth, beats any vine I have ever seen. It is clothed with a coat of brilliant brown tomentum. Its name is Vitis vomerensis, its nativity I have not been able to learn. It is quite hardy. Ed Rust of South Pasadena, may be able to supply the plant. Certainly it is worthy a place on any pergola.

Doryanthes Palmeri, one of the Amaryllidaceae tribe, a native of Queensland, Australia, is so brilliantly beautiful when in flower that it should be better known, and more extensively grown. It is what Botanists term; Cespitose, that is a cluster of leaves growing from a crown, the same as New Zealand Flax-Phormium tenax—which it very much resembles. To do its best it must be grown in full sun, the hotter the locality, the better it grows. Then the scape,

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CONIFERS—CONTINUED

By Jno. G. Morley

The Thujas, which include Biota and Arbor Vitae, are highly ornamental trees and shrubs and are grown extensively for their handsome evergreen foliage and formal habit of growth. They are natives of both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

The variety Occidentalis is a native of North America, from Manitoba and the northern United States as far south as North Carolina; and Thuja Orientalis is a native of Asia, including Persia, northeastern Asia and Japan. Thuja Occidentalis—the American Arbor Vitae—attains a height of 50 feet. It is a very popular evergreen and is grown more as a bush than as a tree; it is also utilized extensively in the Eastern States as a hedge, for which it is well adapted. There are numerous varieties of this beautiful evergreen of a more dwarf and compact growth, some of which are pendulous, others variegated green and white and others yellow.

Thuja Orientalis, also known as Chinese Arbor Vitae attains a height of 25 to 30 feet and is utilized in the more temperate zones in similar ways as Thuja Occidentalis. Many varieties of this species are dwarf in habit and some are pendulous, variegated and yellow, as in the preceding species.

These two species, with their extensive varieties, are the finest and most beautiful of all the evergreen shrubs that are planted in our gardens for ornamental purposes. They are very easily propagated from seeds, cuttings and by grafting on young seedlings. Plants grown from seed vary in habits of growth and from this source new varieties are produced. Those grown from cuttings and by grafting are usually established varieties and these methods of propagation are used to be sure of the type of plants required.

Of the species Thuja Occidentalis, T. O. Alba has white tips on the young branchlets and T. O. Argenta has silvery white branchlets; T. O. Aurea, a golden foliage; T. O. Globosa, dense, dwarf and globular; T. O. Gracilis is a beautiful variety with long slender branches; T. O. Elwangeriana is a dwarf growing bush with slender branches; T. O. Pendula has slender pendulous foliage; T. O. Vervaeneana is a beautiful gold tinted variety, and there are many others of equal merit.

Varieties of Thuja Orientalis are extensively used in California. Among the best are Thuja Beverlyensis, an exceedingly beautiful type of columnar habit, a rapid grower and the finest of all the yellow-foliaged types—it should be placed only where there is little danger of frost. T. Aurea is a golden dwarf variety; T. Elegantissima, very elegant, the tips of the foliage being of golden yellow in spring and autumn; T. Sieboldi is dwarf and compact with green foliage; T. Pyramidalis, a fine tall variety; T. Variegata a splendid specimen with gold and green branchlets. There are also many others of horticultural origin of this beautiful conifer.

California and the northern Pacific States is the native habitat of the largest of the Thujas-Thuja Gigantea, (White Cedar) a beautiful evergreen that grows to a height of 150 to 200 feet. This is also known as Thuja Lobbi, Thuja Menziessii and Thuja Plicata. Grown as a specimen, there are few trees that can compare with it in beauty. T. Gigantea Atrovirens, T. G. Var. Fastigata, T. G. Pyramidalis and T. G. Pendula are developed varieties of this beautiful tree.

In closing these articles on conifers, mention must be made of one of the most beautiful of all—Thuja Dolabrata, a tree that attains a height of 50 feet and a native of Japan. This beautiful conifer was extensively grown in California twenty-five to forty years ago and now after an interval of several years is becoming popular again. It is beautifully grown as a shrub,—its silvery green foliage and habit of growth is a charming feature in the landscape where coniferous evergreens are utilized. Southern California is awakening to the beauty of conifers, both the trees and shrubs. The wide diversity of the species and the many varieties provide an extensive list to choose from to beautify our parks and gardens and to enhance the beauty and charm of our southern landscape.

QUARANTINE OF PLANTS

Protection of American Agriculture from new pests is attempted through the enforcement of 22 foreign quarantines to restrict the importation of plants and plant products known to the hosts of specific enemies. Prevention of the spread of new pests within the United States and between the territories of Porto Rico and Hawaii and the mainland of the United States is managed by seventeen domestic quarantines.

The Plant Detectives operating under these quarantines are required to inspect all vessels at ports of entry, and to inspect and dispose of products under restriction if found in passengers' baggage by custom officers. All products entered commercially under permit are inspected, so are foreign plants introduced by the Department of Agriculture for experimental use.

Inspectors are stationed at fruit and vegetable shipping points in Porto Rico. Of 12,805

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LATH HOUSE MATTERS

By Alfred D. Robinson.

The resting time for lathhousers is about over and they can go to work again. This does not mean that summer is here, for we should pray for at least two more months of comparatively cool and plenty of wet weather, but all the lathhouse family have definitely started, even the tuberous Begonias packed away dry and in the coolest spot are sprouting, at present only here and there but the sign is to get busy. I hate to have to forego a review of January weather and an expression of sympathy with all forecasters, but I do believe that this month I really have something to say.

The first job should be a cleaning up and pruning of the lathhouse in general. Ferns should be given a complete haircut so far as old fronds are concerned, of course omitting the tree kinds though even those would not be hurt by a short bob. This is done to get rid of the brown fern scale, mealybug, etc., and so all old fronds should be carried out and burned. For the same reason all surplus growth of any kind should be removed, vines particularly should have attention and where they grow over a lathhouse roof the right thing is to cut them completely away. It has been amply demonstrated that vines will grow hugely in our climate so let us now start to regulate their exuberance.

We of this favored land must not think of Begonias as delicate little house invalids but rather as shrubs to be kept in order. To advise as to pruning is always dangerous, at least to the pruned, but if we are to profit by the so-called tree Begonias after they are a few years old INSIDE the lathhouse we must prune them, and that with no light hand. These old plants always have spent growths on them, those of small hard wood and generally almost black stems, these may be cut down to the ground. If vigorous shoots are anywhere near the roof they should be shortened far enough down to give a new growth from them room to develop. It is no use cutting them off just below the roof because the new growth will just shoot through. The best effect of the big growing Rubra type is obtained by a bowed effect which can only be with shoots of considerable length. It also contributes to a satisfactory form to shorten shoots on the same plant to different lengths for obvious reasons. Pruning generally consists of removal of old and surplus growth and cutting back for form. A number of the lower and intermediate growers need this attention almost more because they make more shoots. Such as Robusta should have all old wood removed after the new shoots start. In cutting it is well to cut a few inches above the eye desired to develop new growth as the wood is liable to die back from the cut quite appreciably. No one should prune in a lathhouse who has not a fair acquaintance with the plants in it, but the large percentage of owners will do too little rather than too much.

It is well to get the ground in the lathhouse sufficiently open so that a mulch of new leaf mold and cow fertilizer about half and half can be applied to a depth of two or three inches. Pull up all surplus growth but don't dig. If the leaf mold is very light a quarter of sand is useful to keep it compacted. There is little value to Begonia leaves for soil building and danger of preserving insect pests.

When the cleaning and pruning and mulching is done, spray everything well with Volck to which has been added Black Leaf 40, a teaspoonful to a gallon. You have Red spider and this is bad medicine for him.

Now is the time to move Begonias and remodel, you can shift your biggest specimens without any harm. Unless you are perfectly satisfied with your lathhouse, and I am sorry for you if you are for your interest is about to wane, make your changes now. ,

How about hanging baskets? They are so indispensable in arranging. If there is a hole high or low or in the middle a hanging basket will fill it. Last year's baskets won't do this year without renovation, and except in the case of ferns and their like a complete refilling is necessary. and if this for any reason is impracticable, the moss should be inspected and reinforced where weak and the soil compacted with a small stick searching for vacuums.

Tuberous Begonias if desired in the dry stage should be bought this month. Don't be seduced into buying them by size. I have just inspected an hundred tubers from plants marked for special excellence when in bloom, and they average much below what is generally considered marketable size, they are wholesaled according to size. Many are ill-shaped and they are decidedly miscellaneous. The expert selecting for exhibition plants prefers a tuber not over an inch and a half and does not mind one an inch or even a bit less, but he wants it even, round and cup shaped, firm to the touch but not hard like a stone. I have heard of folks planting these tubers in pots already, but it is much safer to start them in growth half buried in leaf mold before potting. When they are potted they must be put only just below the soil. Any of the many varieties are good in hanging baskets, but of course the Lloydii are easily the best,

though I have an idea that the new Narcissiflora will shine brightly in this situation. This Narcissiflora should have been popularized as the Daffodil Begonia, for its male flower is exactly like a trumpet Daffodil. Last year I had a red with a four inch long trumpet and beside red, yellow, pink and salmon shades. It is destined to become very popular both for specimen plants and as a cut flower, think of prolonging the daffodil season till October and in all sorts of colors. Last year saw the Tuberous Begonia coming into favor as a cut-flower in the Northern part of the State and doubtless there will be quite a call for them in the South this season. At the next fall show someone should decorate a table with these blooms.

It is a bit early to talk of putting in cuttings but many will grow if you don't want to waste your prunings.

I have not said Rex for months because they were neither saying nor doing things, but every day I find hundreds big and little that are waking up and now they can be repotted, or replanted. Use a coarse mixture, leafmold, charcoal, a little sand if needed to give compaction, water thoroughly and then not again till under way. Use a small enough pot. Large specimens with several heads can be divided. It is a good precaution to rub sulphur on the cut.

If you are growing from seed watch that the little plants don't get weedy, get them into as strong a light as they will stand, not sunlight, and don't let them suffer for moisture. Water from below.

As yet I can't say anything about the alum treatment, I am applying it faithfully and the druggist is happy. So far the bulletin must be "No injury observed".

ACACIA FESTIVAL

On Monday afternoon, February sixth, was held the "Festival of Acacias" in the Floral Building. The room was beautifully decorated with masses of acacia of many varieties, the golden blossoms making a lovely glow.

Miss Sessions in her usual convincing and attractive manner gave a fine talk on planting of acacias, naming varieties most suitable for the climate of San Diego.

Mr. Morley for the Park exhibit sent down some rare new acacias which Miss Sessions described. She spoke very highly of Acacia Pendula which at this time is very rare with us but she promises that in time trees will be available.

Mr. Lawrence Blochman, the son of Mr. Lewis Blochman, a former president of the Association, gave a very interesting account of the "Festival of Acacias" in Southern France, telling us about the wonderful procession of acacia-decked vehicles.

A LETTER FROM ENGLAND

80 Osborne Road,
West Hartlepool,
England.
January 10, 1928.

Dear Readers:

You will have come to the conclusion long since I expect that your English correspondent has forgotten all about you, but such is not the case, I assure you. In the first place, 1927 with us was such a failure horticulturally that one did not seem to have the heart to write much about it, and in the second place for five months I have been forced to do as little writing as possible, owing to having a badly poisoned finger, which has given me no little trouble to get better. Some of my friends say it serves me right for going "mucking" about gardening so much. But, however, it's all in a lifetime and I am only waiting for summer weather to start "mucking" around again as keen as ever. The past year as you well know has been one of the worst on record over here. The continued rains kept everything in a sodden state and nothing came to perfection. We managed to get some fair roses and early chrysanthemums but they were not up to the usual standard. Asters and stocks were about the best annuals. Talking of stocks reminds me, do you know of the "Beauty Strain of Stocks" from France. There are about 15 varieties of most beautiful colors and with a very large percentage of doubles. The "California Giant" asters have done well over here and beat all others easily. They are nearly as good as Chrysants.

I am glad to read that the San Diego Floral Association is going forward by leaps and bounds. I receive the "Garden" regularly and note that all old stalwarts, including "A. D. R." and "K. O. S." are still in the running. What a wonderful personality the latter must be. As for "A. D. R." I should just like to catch him some night stealing round with a light in that begonia mansion of his squashing caterpillars with his finger and thumb. I fancy I can hear the "squash". You will see in the papers no doubt that we are having a disastrous time just now with the floods, after our severe snowstorms and high tides. You in San Diego escape all such although in other parts of your country you have had it bad enough. We should have a better spring and summer after it and we surely deserve it. At the present time we are just about frozen in this north country and are eagerly looking forward to some sun and warmth. Although somewhat late I sincerely wish you continued success and prosperity during 1928.

Yours truly,
W. C. KING.

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MEALYBUG BELONGS TO THE ANTIPODES

The citrophilus mealybug, one of the undesirable immigrants among the citrus pests of the state, has been traced to its native lair by entomologists of the University of California, according to Professor H. S. Smith of the University of California Citrus Experiment Station at Riverside. For many years it has been the hope of the College of Agriculture that the home of the insect might be located, and that when that was done parasites to control it might be discovered. This hope may now be realized, it is said.

"It has long been the belief of entomologists," says Professor Smith, "that the citrophilus mealybug, one of the major pests of citrus in Southern California and a general nuisance on ornamentals in the north, was an immigrant from some unknown foreign land. Its early establishment in the San Francisco Bay region led to the belief that it probably originated in some one of the countries maintaining direct steamship communication with that port. Years of search, however, in Japan, China, Formosa, the Philippines, Indo-China, and the Malay Archipelago by competent entomologists in the employ of both the State and the University failed to reveal its presence in those countries. It was known to occur in England and Wales, but not under such circumstances as to warrant the belief that it originated there.

"About a year ago, it was decided to make another effort to solve the problem of the origin of this insect, and consequently Harold Compere of the Citrus Experiment Station was sent to Australia, about the only locality maintaining direct lines of communication with San Francisco which had not already been subject to scrutiny for the presence of THREE—Elite Calif Garden ..... B-3-308 this pest. Compere arrived in Australia in early October, and had not been there more than a week until he cabled that he had found the insect at Sydney. He reported that, while the insect was rare, he had already found three different species of parasites working on it. These parasites are being bred for importation into California as a possible means of controlling the pest."

"The practical importance of this discovery must, of course, await future developments. It is confidently expected that some of the beneficial insects found by Compere to be destroying the pest in Australia will prove of great economic value in its control in California."

QUARANTINE OF PLANTS

(Continued from Page 11)

ships inspected last year. 7,083 vessels were found to contain contraband products in staterooms, ice boxes, fruit and vegetable lockers, or in crew or passenger quarters. In 21,274 commercial shipments under a permit requiring inspection more than 3,500 specimens of insects and plant diseases were collected. Of 11,055 parcel post packages of products 1,637 were fumigated and released, 1,683 were refused entry.

A Mexican border patrol is maintained, especially to prevent the further invasion of the pink boll worm, a pest more devastating than the cotton boll weevil.

Inspectors are at eight Mexican border ports. Fumigation houses capable of disinfecting from 4-20 freight cars at a time are at five ports of entry. All cars are inspected before they cross the border either way. An effective way of exterminating the boll worm is density of compression of cotton bales, which crushes the seed and worms in the seed.

More than 100,000 plants were intercepted at the border last year.

In 1912 when the quarantine law was passed, only the pink boll worm had been established in the United States. In four years previous to this there were introduced and established as a drain on American agriculture the Oriental fruit worm, Japanese beetle, citrus canker, potato wart, European corn borer, camphor scale, and gypsy moth. More than $2,000,000 a year is spent in eradication and control work.—Asa Gray Memorial Botanical Chapter, Division B.

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take up her duties at the high school. Miss Frazee lives at 422 California Terrace, Pasadena.—Pasadena Paper.

RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP

Cut Flowers
Floral Designs

1115 Fourth Street *San Diego*

WHERE ARE THE BLOOMS OF YESTERDAY?

(Continued from Page 3)

April, if we have a normal spring rainfall, and you will see how thousands of acres appeared to the pioneers. Here the tidy-tips of the bay region are making their last stand.

Now you may ask what used to grow on all these areas at present occupied by Mediterranean weed greenery. Let Daniel Cleveland, pioneer resident and botanist who came here about 1873, speak. On January 28, 1928, he said to me: "When I came here the flora of the bay region was RADICALLY DIFFERENT. On the hill slopes in spring you might see 20, 50 or 100 acres of yellow eschscholtzia, tidy-tips and baeria, blue phacelias and brodiaea. Ferns of many kinds, golden violets and other flowers were profuse where now you find nothing but waving grasses." On page 24 of volume I of the West Coast Scientist, Mr. C. R. Orcutt gives a pen-picture of the flora of the terraces of Point Loma facing the city. "Among the bushes (rhus, ephedra, cactus, simmondsia, yucca, artemisia) were blue heads of brodiaea, purple four-o'clock, phacelia, nemophila. hosackia and lupine. In other spots the spaces between the bushes were occupied by onothera, euphorbia, senecio, filaree, cotyledons, astragalus and iceplants." He mentions thirty native plants in a short article and only one introduced plant, the filaree. Go there today and repeat the experience of Presidio Hill.

But I do not have to quote pioneers except for the sake of argument. I am almost a pioneer myself for I came to San Diego in 1884. I easily remember the appearance of the alluvial river plains, cleared tracts and open spaces before the terrible bromes began to secure a foothold in the late nineties. I have seen the terraces of Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach, La Jolla, Roseville, tracts in Balboa Park, National City, Coronado, Imperial Beach, hill slopes around the bay, mesas north of Mission Valley, flood plains of the valleys colored like sunset skies—miles of cream cups, acres of poppies and magenta escobitas, blue lupines, yellow sunshine daisies and creamy tidy-tips. In the spring of 1898, and often before that year, I picnicked on the north slope of Mission Valley (now called Sloane Terrace, I believe). The long north slope (as well as others east and west) was patched with aged lemonade and toyon berry bushes. The entire spaces between these bushes from March to May, from the top of the hill to the bottom was a continuous mass of blossoms—cream cups, poppies, collinsias, flame poppies, baeria, larkspur, violets, bloomerias, nemophilas and tidy-tips. I waded and rolled among this gorgeous liquid color. Go there today and you will not find a blossom. No animals have grazed there. Seldom did a child or tourist visit the spot. The bushes were cut down later but that would have given more room for flowers. Grasses have swept the slope like a plague. I know scores of similar places on the Pueblo Lands—miles and miles, hundreds of acres, once wild flowers, now matted with bronco bromes, wild oats, foxtails, star thistles and saltweed. Even the once splendid patches of mustard are being decimated. Nothing remains to complete this picture of mediocrity and desolation except to see the black mustard, the one picturesque weed of them all, go down before the devastating vandal bromes.

Recent residents of San Diego, even those of twenty years, cannot possibly realize the change that has taken place in even a few decades. Here and there through the county, especially on newly-burned country, are floral displays of what the coast region looked like 30, 40, 50 years ago. Even at these dates the lowlands had largely been taken by filaree, burclover, mustard and other introductions, but the scourge of the Mediterranean grasses had not arrived. Now every year accelerates the destruction. Whenever a tract is cleared or cultivated land is abandoned or fire runs through the chaparral once or twice the foreigners get a foothold and they never retreat. Little patches of orthocarpus, creamcups, lupines and brodiaea which one may see on Mt. Soledad or elsewhere are nothing but pitiable remnants of vanished glory.

This is the brief story of a floral tragedy. I have neither space nor time to make a scientific study of the problem but no words can do justice to the evil. If you, reader, are not almost moved to tears it is because you do not know what Southern California has lost forever. Moreover this is only the beginning. The immigrant weed army will widen its devastation every year. I reached down on a hillside on Mission Hills the other day and pulled up a handful of brome grasses and counted 86 seedlings that had occupied a space four inches square. The delicate annuals that made California famous for spring flower displays—poppies, creamcups, phacelias, nemophilas, tidy-tips, gilias—are the first to disappear. Soft perennials like violet, shooting star and lilies struggle longer. Large perennials like four-o'clock, encelia, deerbroom succumb later. The shrubs will survive longest. But sooner or later every wild plant of the coast region will enter a life and death struggle against the cut-throat immigrants—foxtail barley, wild oats, star thistles, filaree and the terrible bromes. In 1920 Parish for the Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, catalogued 281 immigrants. There are now over 300. They are coming in at the rate of three per year, one of which proves to be pernicious. Nothing can stop them.

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What of plant conservation? Is it worth while? Of course. Wherever a tract of native shrubbery can be kept from fire the natives may resist invasion. Shall we continue to teach wild flower conservation in the schools? Certainly. Conservation is for man, not man for conservation. Even though the wild flowers are doomed, restraint in picking is an education in self control and unselfishness. But do not imagine you can bring the wild flowers back by scattering seeds among the grass carpets. This may please the florists and the boosters but the only name for it is Conservational Insanity. Of course you can grow wild flowers on roadsides, vacant lots or in parks and gardens but you have to cultivate the soil and plant them and protect them just as you would cosmos and mignonette. It would be wiser to set out wild shrubs such as lilac, manzanita, toyon, rhus or holly-leafed cherry. But the saltweeds and foxtails, the thistles and bromes will crowd around them like sharks around a wounded whale waiting for an opportunity to devour them.

A FEW HIGHLY DESIRABLE YET LITTLE KNOWN PLANTS

(Continued from Page 10)

or flower stem grows to a height of six or eight feet, on the top of which grow the flowers in one great mass, crowded together, in appearance like unto the swab of the old time muzzle loading cannon. It is slow of growth, maybe that is one reason why there are not more of them in our gardens. We must have quick results, and because of that impatient frame of mind, we lose much of the beauty of living.

A quarter century ago, a Solanum of gigantic size, fruits in umbels borne in the axils of the branches was plentiful, but being a tender plant it was almost exterminated by frosts. To learn its name and identity was one of the problems of this writer for years. Finally a specimen of fruit and foliage was sent to Miss Sessions; mother of Ornamental Horticulture in this Southland for identification. Following is her reply: "Thirty years ago a world-wide traveler gave me some seeds, which he collected in Africa. I planted them and this is one of the descendants of the original plant." And now about the plant. It is covered with white tomentum, and with short sharp spines. Where a color scheme is to be worked out in Landscape building, it fits in to perfection with Eucalyptus cordata, the dwarf species with sessile foliage, almost round and quite white. The fruits are brilliant scarlet, and last a long while after being cut. To a certain extent it may be classed with the berried plants. It is the last subject discussed in Bailey's Cyclopedia, under the name Solanum giganteum. Of it he says; "it is doubtful whether this species is in the American trade."

ACACIAS

(Continued from Page 9)

The following sorts are good but only a specimen or two are to be found here. A. extensa, very individual; A. cyclopsis, A. rostillifera, another very excellent low and spreading sort, some plants not far from the Sixth Street Bird House. A. Calamifolia has very fine foliage and small fragrant flowers.

A. Riciana, extremely pendulous, insignificant flowers, very excellent near a pool or high wall. Only specimens are on the grounds of Mrs. Burnham on Seventh Street. A few plants of A. pendula are now established in the city and are very promising. Drooping silvery foliage and light yellow blooms and a small graceful tree.

A. pubescens is one of the well known sorts in Europe, for cultivation under glass, its light yellow and very fragrant flowers are sold by the florists. At least two young plants are flourishing in my home garden at Pacific Beach. At Santa Monica there is a good blooming specimen. For a medium sized bunch of flowers of this variety a New York florist asked me $10.00 in February, 1925. The English generally call Acacias Mimosas.

Australia furnishes more varieties of Acacias than any other country. We have A. Greggi growing wild in our San Diego mountains. It is a shrubby tree, very thorny and not over 20 feet high. All Acacias are improved by a heavy pruning as soon as they have finished blooming. Then they make a new growth and blossom the following winter, on the new growth. Without a good pruning the new growth is feeble and flower sprays poor. Acacias are not very long lived trees. The bark of some varieties furnishes tannic acid. Another yields gum arabic. Perfume is made from the flowers. San Diego has more varieties growing here than are seen in the Mediterranean region. There are 116 varieties listed in Bailey's Encyclopedia. The Park has some twelve new varieties that are being tried out.

—K. O. SESSIONS.

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